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**Asian Parliamentary Assembly**

**Report of the Standing Committee on Political Affairs**

**30 October 2018**

**Gwadar - Pakistan**

**APA/Political/Rep/2018/03**

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1. The Meeting of the Standing Committee on Political Affairs convened in Pearl-Continental Hotel in Gwadar at 11:00 hours on Monday,30 October 2017.

2. Delegations from Bahrain, Bhutan, Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Iran, Jordan, Lao PDR, Lebanon, Oman, Nepal, Pakistan, Palestine, Qatar, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Sri Lanka, Syria, Thailand, Timor Leste, and Turkey attended this Meeting.

3. In Inaugural Ceremony, there were eight speakers as follows:

* Welcome remarks by Mr. Amjed Pervez, Secretary Senate of Pakistan
* Remarks by Dr. M. R. Majidi, Secretary General of APA
* Remarks by Madam Asmun Erdogan on behalf of APA President
* Remarks by H. E. Mushahidullah Khan, Representative of Leader of Opposition
* Remarks by H.E. Mr. Syed Shibli Faraz, Leader of the House, Senate
* Remarks by H.E. Mr. Martin Chungong, Secretary-General of IPU
* Remarks by Amanullah Khan Yasinzai, Governor of Balochistan
* Opening Address by Honorable Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani, Acting President of Pakistan and Chairman Senate of Pakistan

The texts of speeches are attached.

4. The next meeting was Special Committee for Creation of Asian Parliament. Honorable Shibli Faraz who was nominated by Acting President of Pakistan and the Chairman of Senate as the Chairman of the Political Standing Committee opened the meeting and asked Dr. Khorram to deliver the report of Secretary-General. Deputy Secretary-General pointed out that the APA Secretariat substantive report on the idea of the Asian Parliament entitled: *The Foundations of an Asian Parliament* has been the basis for further consideration of all APA Member Parliaments. He mentioned that the (SCCAP) has held its meetings on different occasions. All Member delegates expressed their general support for the promotion of the notion of Asian parliament in the light of the great potentials which exist in Asia and particularly in Asian Parliaments. Dr. Khorram expressed that they also underlined the formidable challenges and crucial prerequisites facing the creation of an Asian Parliament and they all emphasized that the creation of Asian Parliament is a long term project with various aspects of which needs to be explored in many discussions, conferences, and meetings to come. Dr. Khorram raised some questions and answered them for the consideration of Member Parliaments. For example, should the Asian Parliaments have forum nature or executive characteristic? Whether its legislatives are compulsory for all APA Member Parliaments or not? Are APA Member Parliaments ready to delegate a part of their sovereignty to Asian Parliament? He proposed that we should try to test budget-making project at first in APA and then transfer the best practice to the future Asian Parliament. At present, we have some difficulties to get the reactions and responses of all APA Member Parliaments to the Model of Payment or Assessed Contribution. Overcoming this difficulty and providing the budget be prior to budget-making project of Asian Parliament. Dr. Khorram added that Asian Parliament is the ultimate goal of Asian Parliamentary Assembly and we are thankful to the Senate of Pakistan for its continued efforts to promote this idea. At the end he said, APA Member Parliaments were requested to send their communications to the APA Secretariat for more deliberation in SCCAP Meeting after incorporating their government’s point of views on Asian Parliament.

5. The Chairman opened the Meeting for discussion on Asian Parliament. Member Parliaments deliberated the topic at hand. They discussed range of models from Council of Europe to Arab Union, EU and etc. Few Members stressed the necessity of establishing a sub-Committee under the umbrella of APA Secretariat and also to nominate a person to attend such open ended working group.

6. The SCCAP Meeting opened the Resolution on “Towards an Asian Parliament” and Delegation of Pakistan presented new amendments. Due to the fact that those amendments were not presented in time it was agreed to defer the consideration of new amendments during the next Political Standing Committee.

7. On Tuesday 30 October 2018, the Political Standing Committee was opened and Dr Khorram presented the Agenda for its adoption. After the adoption of the Agenda, the following members of Bureau were elected:

Senator Shibli Faraz was elected as Chairman on the basis of APA customary procedure. General Nipot of Thailand as Vice Chair and Senator Chhit Kim Yeat of Cambodia as Rapporteur.

8. Deputy Secretary-General announced that on the basis of proposals raised in SCCAP Meeting, APA Secretariat will communicate to all Member Parliaments to get their views on the establishment of a working group on Asian Parliament. He added that such measure will be conducted in close consultation and coordination with the Chairman of Political Standing Committee.

9. H.E. Dr. Khorram, mentioned that the Standing Committee had 8 Resolutions for consideration and adoption as the draft.

* Draft Resolution on “Towards an Asian Parliament”

Draft Resolution on “Good Governance”

* Draft Resolution on “Good Parliamentary Practices”
* Draft Resolution on Rule of Law and Judicial Empowerment
* Draft Resolution on Advancing Principles of Friendship and Cooperation inAsia
* Draft Resolution on Asian Parliaments and Governments Together for Prosperity in Asia
* Draft Resolution on Asian Parliaments’ Unwavering Support For The Palestinian People
* Democracy for Development.

10. The Resolution on Democracy for Development, which was tabled by the Senate of Pakistan assessed that needed more discussion and deliberation so Dr Khorram recommended deferring it to the next Political Standing Committee for further consideration. The participants supported the recommendation and the Chairman decided so.

11. The other seven draft resolutions were presented one by one and after some discussions and applying some modifications, they were finalized to be forwarded to the Executive Council.

12. Concluding Session:

a) The Report of the Standing Committee on Political Affairs was presented to the Meeting by H.E. Mr. Chhit Kim Yeat, Rapporteur

b) The Gwadar Chairman Statement was presented to the Meeting

c) Most of delegations thanked the Host for very enjoyable hospitalities.

13. All seven Resolutions, Speeches of Inaugural Ceremony, the SG Report to SCCAP Meeting and other statements are annexed to this Report.